

Opinion Writing

Pick a Planet

Objectives & Common Core Connections

- * Introduce the topic.
- * Focus on the purpose of opinion writing.
- * State an opinion about the topic.
- * Develop a list of facts to support the opinion.

Introduction Provide each student with a copy of the writing frame (page 9). Read the title and first lines. Draw attention to the images. Ask students to form an opinion about which planet they would prefer to visit. Tell them that they will be writing to persuade others to agree with their opinion. Remind students that an opinion is a point of view or what someone thinks or believes about something.

Model Tell students that in an opinion piece, writers should introduce the topic. Write the topic in sentence form on the board. For example:

- It would be fun to visit another planet.

Call on a volunteer to tell what planet he or she would choose. For example:

- I think we should visit Mars.

Remind students that they are writing to persuade their readers to agree with them. Ask: *How do you persuade someone to agree with you?* Help students understand that a writer might give facts to support an opinion. Brainstorm some facts or have some relevant research materials available and invite students to research facts that support the opinion. For example:

- closer to Earth
- spacecraft landed there
- has interesting canyons

Coach students in developing complete sentences based on the reasons. For example:

- Earth is closer to Mars than to Jupiter.
- Spacecraft have already landed there.
- The planet has interesting canyons.

Guided Practice Have students complete the writing frame. Remind them to introduce the topic, focus on the purpose of writing about the topic, state an opinion, list facts to support their opinion, and write some practice sentences. Encourage students to use their own wording and sentence structure. If students choose to visit Jupiter, guide them in developing facts to support their opinion.

Review Invite volunteers to read their finished pages to the class. Have listeners use items 1–4 on the assessment checklist (page 62) to evaluate the effectiveness of other students' work.

Independent Practice Use the On Your Own activity (page 10) as homework or review. Encourage students to use what they have learned in the lesson to complete the assignment. Explain that they can choose a place in the solar system from the Idea Box or use their own idea. Have appropriate reference materials and a computer with Internet access available for student research.

Name _____ Date _____

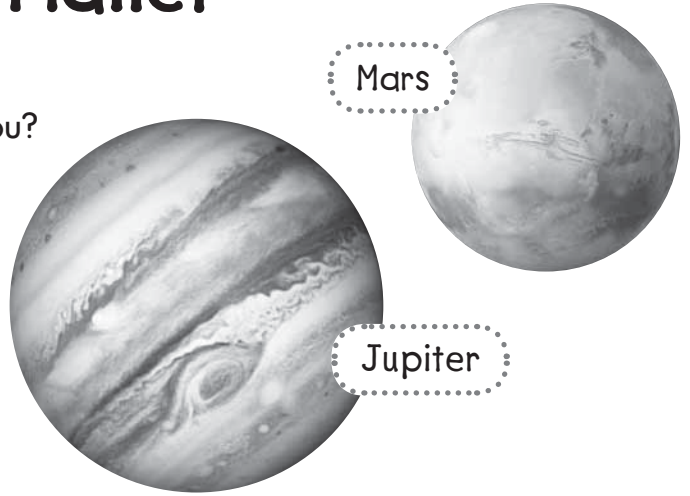
Pick a Planet



Which planet would you like to visit?

How can you get others to agree with you?

- Introduce the topic.
- Focus on your writing purpose.
- State your opinion.
- List facts to support your opinion.
- Write some practice sentences.



Topic _____

Writing Purpose _____

Opinion _____

Supporting Facts _____

Practice Sentences _____

Name _____ Date _____

On Your Own

Which place in the solar system would you like to visit?
Choose one from the Idea Box or think of your own idea.
Then, complete this page to get others to agree with you.


 Mercury

 Venus

 Neptune

 My Idea: _____

Topic _____

Writing Purpose _____

Opinion _____

Supporting Facts _____

Practice Sentences _____

Student Assessment Checklist

Opinion Writing

1. Introduced the topic.
2. Focused on the writing purpose.
3. Stated an opinion.
4. Developed and presented reasons, facts, and/or details to support an opinion.
5. Organized the reasons, facts, and/or details in a logical order.
6. Connected the reasons and opinion with linking words.
7. Addressed the audience appropriately.
8. Provided a concluding sentence.
9. Wrote a paragraph that offers an opinion.

**More Things
to Check**

- Capitalized proper nouns.
- Capitalized the first word of sentences.
- Used correct punctuation.
- Spelled words correctly.
- Followed correct paragraph form.